

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0048] A mechanism for enabling customized session managers to interact with a network server is disclosed. A programming interface enables customized session managers to "plug in" to and to interact with the server, making it possible to change session management functionality without having to make any changes to the core server. It also makes it possible to incorporate multiple session managers into the server. These aspects of the programming interface significantly increase the flexibility and scalability of the web server. The mechanism further includes a service engine for coordinating the interaction with the session managers. For each client request, the service engine determines which application needs to be invoked. Then, based upon that application, the service engine determines which, if any, associated session manager needs to be invoked to manage session (i.e. state) information for that application. The service engine invokes the session manager via the programming interface.